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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,424	08/05/2003	Yoshimi Tsujiyama	JCLA11962	7330

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J.C. Patents
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EXAMINER

TORRES VELAZQUEZ, NORCA LIZ

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/635,424

Applicant(s)

TSUJIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Norca L. Torres-Velazquez

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 5, 2003-Dec 17, 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 111703.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over COLLIER, IV et al. (US 5,260,126).

COLLIER, IV et al. discloses elastic nonwoven webs of fibers. The reference teaches that the elastic nonwoven web of fibers may be a web of meltblown fibers or spunbonded fibers. The meltblown may be microfibers. The elastic nonwoven web may also include at least one type of nonelastic fibers, for example nonelastic microfibers, which are distributed within or upon the matrix. The nonelastic fibers may be selected from the group including polyester fibers, polyolefin fibers, among others. If the nonelastic fibers are polyolefin fibers, the polyolefin fibers may be selected from, for example, polyethylene fibers or polypropylene fibers. If nonelastic fibers are present in the elastic nonwoven web, the elastic nonwoven web may generally include from about 20 percent, by weight, to about 99 percent, by weight, of fibers formed from a styrene-poly(ethylenepropylene)-styrene blend and from about 1 percent, by weight to 80 percent, by

weight, of the nonelastic fibers. (Col. 5, lines 1-37) On Table 1 of the reference, some physical properties of the styrene-poly(ethylenepropylene)-styrene block copolymer used by the reference are disclosed. (Col. 7) With regards to the average diameter of the fibers, it is the Examiner's interpretation that the teaching of using microfibers (of diameters of about 10 micrometers or less) reads on the values claimed herein and therefore the relation of the diameters of the fibers would be expected from their teachings. With regards to claim 6, it is noted that the reference teaches using their nonwoven in application such as pants, dresses, blouses, among others. (Col.1 lines 18-25)

Although COLLIER, IV et al. does not explicitly teach the claimed elongation recovery rate and separation resistance it is reasonable to presume that these properties are inherent to the elastic nonwoven web of COLLIER, IV et al. Support for said presumption is found in the use of like materials (i.e. an elastic nonwoven web made from meltblown fibers that include elastic and nonelastic fibers). The burden is upon Applicant to prove otherwise. *In re Fitzgerald* 205 USPQ 594. In addition, the presently claimed properties of elongation recover rate and separation resistance would obviously have been present one the COLLIER, IV et al. product is provided. Note *In re Best*, 195 USPQ at 433, footnote 4 (CCPA 1977) as to the providing of this rejection made above under 35 USC 102.

4. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over COLLIER, IV et al. as applied above, and further in view of ROMANEK (US 4,446,189).

While COLLIER, IV et al. teaches the use of their nonwoven in fiber product applications, the reference is silent to laminating the nonwoven.

ROMANEK is directed to a nonwoven textile fabric laminate that comprises at least one layer of nonwoven textile fabric laminated to an elastic layer. (Abstract, Figures 5-7)

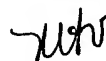
Since both references are directed to elastic web materials, the purpose disclosed by ROMANEK would have been recognized in the pertinent art of COLLIER, IV et al.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to laminate the elastic web of COLLIER, IV et al. to a textile fabric with the motivation of producing a high bulk textile product having elasticity or resiliency for use in such applications as wearing apparel to allow enhanced freedom of movement for the wearer of such apparel as disclosed by ROMANEK. (Col. 1, lines 10-16).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Norca L. Torres-Velazquez whose telephone number is 571-272-1484. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Norca L. Torres-Velazquez
Examiner
Art Unit 1771

November 15, 2004